

Message

From: Verhalen, Frances [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DA20B77D29D744A3AAEC0CF67C7718BA-VERHALEN, FRANCES]
Sent: 9/24/2020 8:30:50 PM
To: Ngo, Kim [Ngo.Kim@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: URGENT Request Regarding Chloroprene Monitors in Reserve, LA

Yes.

Frances Verhalen, P.E., Chief
Air Monitoring & Grants Section
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Elm Street, Suite 500 (MC 6ARPM)
Dallas, TX 75270
214-665-2172
verhalen.frances@epa.gov

From: Ngo, Kim <Ngo.Kim@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 3:27 PM
To: Verhalen, Frances <verhalen.frances@epa.gov>; Robinson, Jeffrey <Robinson.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Cc: Garcia, David <Garcia.David@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: URGENT Request Regarding Chloroprene Monitors in Reserve, LA

Okay, I'll call, can I do a 3 way call on it

From: Verhalen, Frances <verhalen.frances@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 3:19 PM
To: Robinson, Jeffrey <Robinson.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Ngo, Kim <Ngo.Kim@epa.gov>
Cc: Garcia, David <Garcia.David@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: URGENT Request Regarding Chloroprene Monitors in Reserve, LA

I haven't seen anything from James recently. It may be in my emails but...

I am available for a teams call.

Frances Verhalen, P.E., Chief
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Dallas, TX 75270
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verhalen.frances@epa.gov

From: Robinson, Jeffrey <Robinson.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 3:11 PM
To: Ngo, Kim <Ngo.Kim@epa.gov>; Verhalen, Frances <verhalen.frances@epa.gov>
Cc: Garcia, David <Garcia.David@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: URGENT Request Regarding Chloroprene Monitors in Reserve, LA

Do we need to discuss via TEAMS..... I'm not opposed to EJ folks calling her back?

From: Ngo, Kim <Ngo.Kim@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 2:32 PM
To: Robinson, Jeffrey <Robinson.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Verhalen, Frances <verhalen.frances@epa.gov>
Cc: Garcia, David <Garcia.David@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: URGENT Request Regarding Chloroprene Monitors in Reserve, LA

FYI - Ms Boothe (St John Baptist Parish) left VM mssgs for ECAD and EJ
re: not wanting EPA to end sampling at community monitors

Do we expect James Leathers to handle?
Has he reached out to you or Fran?
Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Blanco, Arturo" <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>
Date: September 24, 2020 at 1:38:18 PM CDT
To: "Schiermeyer, Corry" <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>, "Garcia, David" <Garcia.David@epa.gov>, "Seager, Cheryl" <Seager.Cheryl@epa.gov>
Cc: "Gilrein, Stephen" <gilrein.stephen@epa.gov>, "Vaughn, Gloria" <Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov>, "Ngo, Kim" <Ngo.Kim@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: URGENT Request Regarding Chloroprene Monitors in Reserve, LA

According to the email, messages were left for James and me. I this point I am deferring a response to ECAD/ARD based on the questions, but please let me know if I can be of help.

Thanks

Arturo

From: Vickie Boothe <boothevickiel@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 1:30 PM
To: Leathers, James <Leathers.James@epa.gov>; Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>
Subject: URGENT Request Regarding Chloroprene Monitors in Reserve, LA

Hi James and Arturo,

This email is a follow-up to the voicemail messages I just left for both of you.

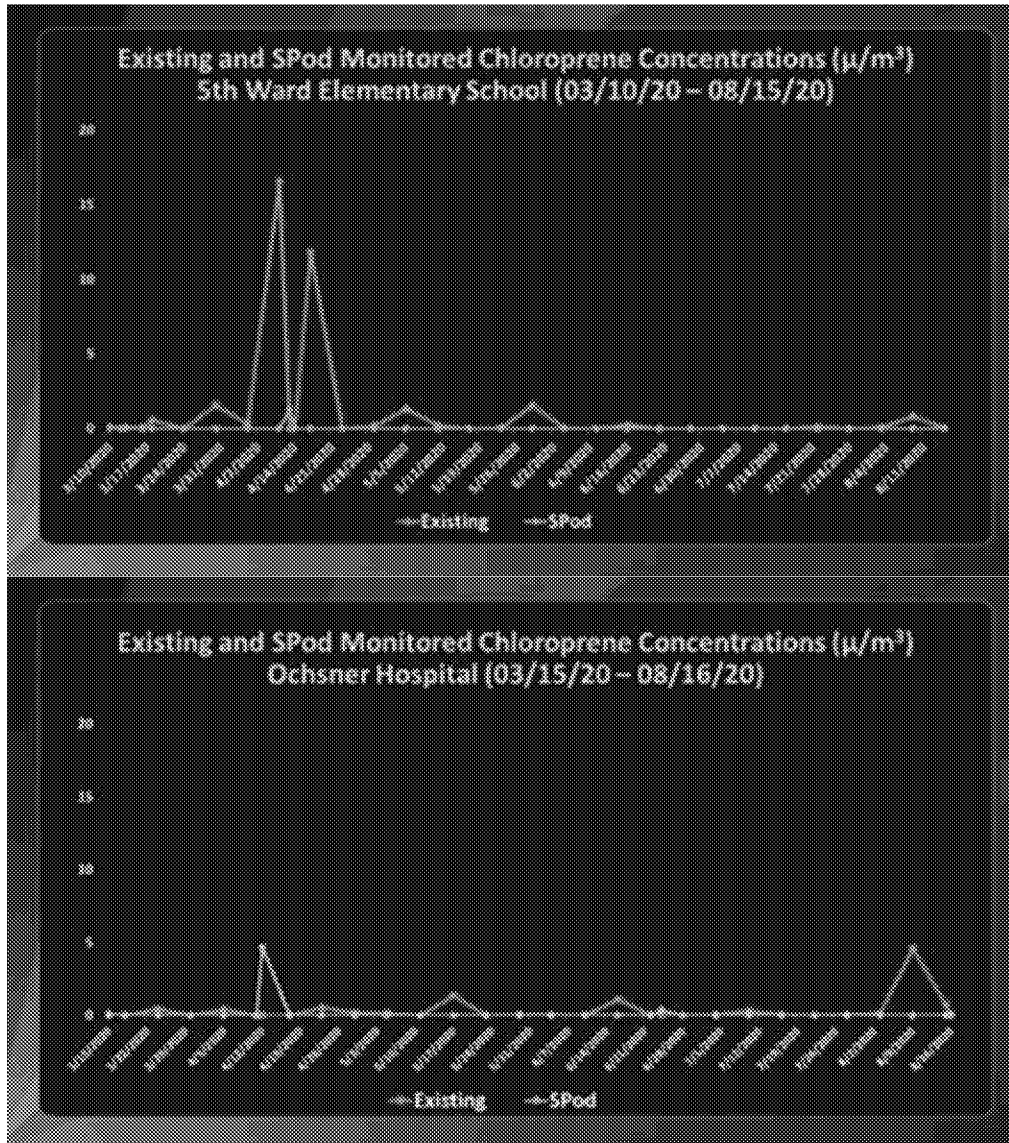
My purpose for contacting you is to:

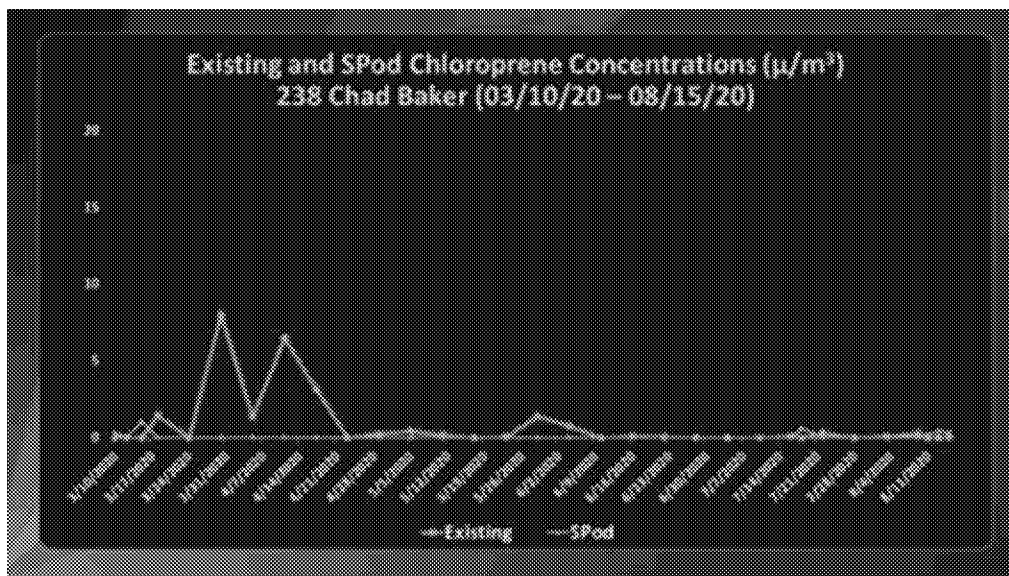
- Let you know a formal letter to Administrator McQueen on behalf of the Concerned Citizens of St. John the Baptist Parish requesting **reconsideration of the decision to remove the existing community chloroprene monitors at the end of September** based on preliminary results of analysis of the SPod sensor summary data released approximately 8 days ago.
- Ask a few clarifying questions related to the newly released SPod data. Without access to a narrative report, I had to make several assumptions regarding interpretation of the released summary data.

- Ask if there is any information that could potentially impact the conclusions we have drawn regarding the ability of the SPod system to achieve the objectives stated by RA McQueen or DRA David Gray. For example, was there any variation in the SPod threshold values during the timeframe they were operating that was not noted in the data release summary.

Quite honestly, as someone who worked at EPA for 14 years and collaborated with EPA engineers and scientists for more than 32 years, I wanted to share some information you likely don't have that could have a bearing on the decision to replace the existing monitors with the SPod sensors at this time.

In preparation for our discussion, below are example time series graphs comparing the sample collection frequency and magnitude of chloroprene concentrations detected for the existing community monitors and the SPod sensors at 3 of the 6 sites over the same time period.





I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Take Care,
Vickie Boothe

On Tue, Sep 1, 2020 at 2:11 PM Leathers, James <Leathers.James@epa.gov> wrote:

Hello Vickie,

Thank you for your interest concerning the monitoring in Laplace, LA. To clarify, the letter from Regional Administrator Ken McQueen only speaks to EPA's monitoring networks and plans. The plan to remove the community air monitoring network at the end of September 2020 is in reference to EPA community air monitoring network. The results of EPA's community air monitoring network are publicly available and can be found at the following site: <https://www.epa.gov/la/denka-air-monitoring-data-summary> EPA also has continuous air monitoring in place, at locations near EPA's community air monitoring network, and plans to continue to monitor through the end of December 2020. Information from this continuous air monitoring system will be made available, just as the previous, community air monitoring information has been made available.

The Letter from Denka Performance Elastomer (DPE) to Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), is in reference to the Monitoring Network managed by DPE. The results of the DPE monitoring network are publicly available in LDEQ's Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) and can be found using the following site: <https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/edms> I hope this clarifies your questions, please let me know if you have any additional questions about these two letters.

James Leathers

Environmental Engineer
EPA Region 6

Air Toxics Enforcement

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From: Vickie Boothe <boothevickiel@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 3:40 PM
To: Leathers, James <Leathers.James@epa.gov>
Subject: Chloroprene Monitors in Reserve, LA

Hi James,

I am trying to get some clarifying information related to the attached August 18 letter from Regional Administrator McQueen to the LDEQ.

As background, I worked as an environmental engineer in the Criteria Air Pollutant and Air Toxics Programs in R9 and OAQPS from 1986 until I transferred to the CDC in 2000. Last January (after 33 total years of federal service) I retired from CDC and relocated to New Orleans in order to work with some of the Cancer Alley frontline communities including the Concerned Citizens of St. John Parish.

Over the last week, we received some seemingly conflicting statements with respect to the stated plan to remove the 6 chloroprene monitors around the Dupont/Denka facility. After receiving copies of RA McQueen's letter announcing plans to remove the monitors at the end of September, we got an email from Arturo Blanco with the subject line "Air monitoring update - good news" stating, "DPE will voluntarily continue operation of its community monitoring stations through 2021."

It is unclear whether this email refers to the 6 monitors installed and managed by R6 or to the chloroprene monitors DPE installed as a condition of the 2017 Consent Order with LDEQ. Can you help to clarify this?

fyi, I tried to locate some of former R6 Air and Radiation Division colleagues including Tom Diggs, but it appears most of them, like me, have retired.

I hope you and your family and friends are safe in the aftermath of Hurricane Laura!

Take Care,

Vickie Boothe